



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
 CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE (IIN-OAS)
 September 2013 - 5 December 2014**

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1. Introduction

The Director General of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN-OAS) is pleased to submit her Annual Report for the consideration of the member States during the 89th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council of IIN-OAS.

From its foundation on 9 June 1927, and thanks to the efforts of Uruguayan paediatrician Dr Luis Morquio in creating a consolidated regional agency for action and reflection in the field of childhood, the Institute has focused on the search for consensus and commitment from the governments in order to make children a national priority.

Over the course of its 87 years, the Institute has witnessed social and political transformations that are part of the history of the region, and among them, the different forms of regarding children and the public policies that address them. In recent decades, the IIN-OAS's actions have embraced, as its key points of reference, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, as well as other Inter-American human rights instruments. All of these international legal documents are proof of the consensus among the international community with regard to children and adolescents.

As an OAS entity, the Inter-American Democratic Charter is evidence of the relationship between democracy and the promotion of human rights. In the Charter, the ideal is expressed of consolidating in this hemisphere, within the framework of democratic institutions, a system of individual liberty and social justice based on respect for basic human rights.

In our role as a regional reference point for the promotion and defence of children's rights, we find that with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, humanity and the governments of the world have taken a significant step forward, introducing a radical change in the way that childhood and the place that children occupy in society are perceived. Children have acquired the status of holders of rights, and as such, they are persons who must be taken into account and respected with all of their unique features. This leads not only to legal consequences, but also to ethical and political effects.

2. Management Model

The current structure of the Institute provides for the operation of its several technical experts in three working areas. These areas are: Protection and Promotion of Rights, Legal, and Communications.



This form of organization makes it possible to set up a technical and operational platform which provides support and continuity to the technical assistance and aid placed at the disposal of the States in the development of the different aspects established in Action Plan 2011-2015.

This structure has been bolstered by a management model devised in order to implement Action Plan 2011-2015, which responds to the Directing Council's initiative with regard to applying a management style in which the States can participate more actively – an essential factor in fulfilling Action Plan 2011-2015.

Working Groups

There are three specific working groups, corresponding to each of the three priority lines of action in the Action Plan, which include the States that volunteered to join them when they were constituted, during the 86th Meeting of the Directing Council. The working groups are composed as follows:

Natural Disasters

Member States:

- Brazil
- Canada
- Dominican Republic
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Panama

Juvenile Justice

Member States:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Brazil
- Chile
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru

Early Childhood

Member States:

- Argentina
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- United States of America
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Suriname
- Uruguay



The **Working Groups** have been providing support for the implementation of the Action Plan through the production and execution of an annual work programme, discussion about the IIN's actions and positioning and the validation of documents produced in the various lines of action. Results are reflected in the sections of the report which refer to each area.

3. Institutional Strengthening and Activities Performed by the Office of the Director General

The IIN-OAS is aware that the responsibility of fulfilling child rights requires active joint participation with member States and the various stakeholders who intervene in every area of the region. The Institute took part in various regionally and internationally significant meetings and events.

During the period covered in this report, the IIN-OAS, represented by its President and its Director General, submitted its Annual Report to the General Committee of the Permanent Council of the Organization of the American States (OAS) In addition, work meetings were held at institutional headquarters in Montevideo with the government representatives of the member States, representatives of international organizations and of civil society organizations.

3.1 Annual Report submitted to the Permanent Council of the OAS

On **25 March 2014**, the President of the Directing Council of the IIN, Ms Gloria Lozano de Díaz (Representative of Panama), together with the Director General of the IIN, Ms Dolores Aguilar, submitted the Annual Report of the IIN-OAS for 2013 to the General Committee of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), chaired by H.E. Carmen Luisa Velásquez de Visbal, Alternate Representative of Venezuela to the Permanent Council of the OAS.

At this time, the President of the Directing Council of the IIN expressed the Institute's commitment to communication, accountability and transparency in relation to its activities on behalf of the promotion, protection and defence of child rights in the region. An account was also given of developments with regard to such issues as Action Plan 2011-2015, preparations for the 21st Pan American Child Congress, the delivery of the online courses for 2013, and the presentation of the report on the Inter-American Cooperation Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation, and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children - AS/RES.2771 (XLIII-O/13).



Meeting of the President of the Directing Council with the Secretary General of the OAS

During their presentation of the IIN's Annual Report for 2013, the President of the Directing Council of the IIN and the Director General of the IIN had occasion to meet with the Secretary General of the OAS, Dr José Miguel Insulza, in order to discuss the programmes that the Institute, as an associated body, is developing with the OAS, as well as the issues to be addressed at the 21st Pan American Child Congress to be held in December 2014 in the city of Brasilia, Brazil.

Meeting of the President of the Directing Council with the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS

Together with their presentation of the IIN-OAS's Annual Report for 2013, Ms Lozano de Díaz and Ms Aguilar had occasion to meet with the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, Ambassador Albert Ramdin, with whom they discussed the development of IIN-OAS's actions in the States of the Caribbean, as well as the progress of its Action Plan for 2011-2015 and the 21st Pan American Child Congress.

3.2 Relations with the Directing Council

As mentioned above, thanks to the initiative of the member States at the 86th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council, a new institutional management model was launched in 2012, in which the States, through their technical liaison officers, have increased participation in the coordination of the IIN-OAS's activities.

The activities carried out by IIN-OAS with the purpose of strengthening its relations with the member States are described below:

88th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN-OAS

After the Directing Council accepted the Government of Colombia's offer to host the meeting (resolution CD/RES. 07 [87-R/12]) the Director General initiated coordination procedures in support of Colombia's representative to the Directing Council, keeping in constant communication with the body's President and Vice-President.

The 88th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN-OAS was held on 16 and 17 September 2013, in the city of Medellín, Colombia.



The key subjects of the meeting involved proposals for the 21st Pan American Child Congress and discussions on healthy environments from the beginning of life.

In relation to the 21st Pan American Child Congress, the city of Brasilia was selected as the venue, by means of resolution CD/RES 05 (88-R/13), in which the agenda, rules of procedure and draft unified resolution were also adopted.

With regard to the meeting's second key topic, an IIN paper was presented which provided general guidelines on promoting family care and parenting skills aimed at early childhood, drafted with the support of Colombia and the Working Group on this subject. The Directing Council issued resolution CD/ RES. 04 (88-R/13) on this issue, entitled "Promoting Family Care and Parenting Skills for Early Childhood".

3.3 Political and Technical Forums

The following activities took place with a view to reinforcing coordination with the different areas of the Organization of American States and highlighting the Institute's role within the Organization.

Activities Related to the 87th Anniversary of IIN-OAS

On 4 June, the **commemoration of the eighty-seventh anniversary of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN-OAS) took place at its headquarters in Montevideo, Uruguay.** The event **was presided** by the Director General of the IIN, Ms Dolores Aguilar and the OAS representative in Uruguay, Ambassador John Biehl del Río. Representing Uruguay's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was Dr Gabriel Winter, Assistant Director of the Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Directorate.

Amongst the guests were ambassadors and other members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of multilateral organizations and of civil society.

In her address, the director of the Institute, Ms Dolores Aguilar Marmolejo, stated that, "The Institute has worked for 87 years in this location, to develop its role as a linchpin and to achieve consensus and commitment according to the premises of protecting and promoting the well-being of children, respecting their rights and enhancing their quality of life". At the same time, the Director referred to the significance for the Institute of the 21st Pan American Child Congress to be held in December of this year in Brasilia, Brazil.



In his address, Ambassador John Biehl del Río emphasized that, “it is important for the governments of the Inter-American system to continue supporting this institution, which from its earliest days has had the noble mandate of watching over the welfare of children” and confronting the harsh realities that the region experiences in relation to different forms of violence, exclusion and exploitation, which mainly affect children.

At the same time, he noted the coincidence of this celebration being held on World Day Against Child Labour and referred to the Institute’s huge significance and relevance at present, when according to the ILO, there are 10.5 million children in the world subjected to illegal child labour, of whom 6.5 million are between five and fifteen years of age. He called for open and sincere discussion of the subjects affecting childhood and the role to be played in this by the IIN. For his part, Dr Winter reaffirmed the historic commitment of the State of Uruguay to the IIN and the importance of the Institute within the framework of the international human rights system.

25th Anniversary of Plan CAIF, a Uruguayan public policy that focuses on early childhood – 17 September – Montevideo, Uruguay

In representation of the Inter-American Children’s Institute, Ambassador John Biehl del Río attended the international seminar on “Plan CAIF - 25 Years Providing Comprehensive Care for Early Childhood and the Family: a Public Policy Model”, held from 16 to 18 September in the city of Montevideo, Uruguay.

During his intervention in the panel discussion entitled “Participation of international agencies in the creation and development of CAIF”, Ambassador John Biehl del Río underscored the importance of a public policy programme such as Plan CAIF, which has managed to establish itself as a State policy by persevering throughout different government administrations for 25 years and highlighted the great significance of its being a programme in which the government and civil society participate on equal terms.

Youth Conference of the Americas 5 November, Washington D.C.

The President of the Directing Council of IIN-OAS, Ms Gloria Lozano de Díaz, attended the Youth Conference of the Americas. The event was distinguished by the presence of the then First Lady of Panama, the Hon Marta Linares de Martinelli.

In her address to the young people who attended this event, the President of IIN-OAS stated that the outcome of the Conference would “contribute to a better understanding



of the aspects that should be borne in mind in public policies and initiatives that promote investment in youth in the region". She added that listening to youth is a "priority, as we cannot design policies without them; we cannot achieve representative democracy without them," and by working with youth, "fairer and more inclusive societies are established".

Ms Lozano stated, in addition, that in the Institute's experience, it is "necessary to establish, strengthen and foster links between agencies and other national and international stakeholders in order to promote the sharing of opinions and knowledge regarding the right to participation as a routine practice in areas involving young people, families, schools and communities".

Third World Congress on Early Childhood Public Policy - 26 to 28 November, Puebla, Mexico

The Vice President of the Directing Council of IIN-OAS, Ms Zaira Navas, attended the Third World Congress on Early Childhood Public Policy. In her address, Ms Navas referred to the significance of the family environment in the earliest years, which makes it necessary to develop outreach strategies with families, with the purpose of strengthening their care and parenting capabilities.

In addition, she highlighted the efforts made by the Institute, together with the members of the Directing Council, with a view to strengthening the capacity of the States in the implementation and management of policies aimed at this stage of life.

2014

2nd Meeting of the Regional Expert Group on Indicators of the Exercise of Women's Rights. 27 February 2014, Montevideo, Uruguay

Ms Dolores Aguilar, Director General of the IIN, took part in discussions on indicators of the exercise of women's rights in public policies.

The Director General described the experience of the Inter-American Children's Institute and presented the work being done by IIN-OAS in relation to the construction of indicators of the exercise of children's rights. Ms Aguilar mentioned that it was important for institutions to incorporate indicators and encourage inter-institutional participation in order to follow up on and improve these indicators.



The opening ceremony was attended by: Ms Carmen Moreno, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (ICW-OAS); Ms Beatriz Ramírez Arbella, Director of the National Women's Institute of Uruguay, Mr Martín Ribero, Uruguayan International Cooperation Agency (AUCI for its acronym in Spanish); Mr Manuel de la Iglesia-Caruncho, acting General Coordinator of Spanish Cooperation in Uruguay (AECID); Ms Soledad García, Coordinator of the IIHR Regional Office for South America and Ambassador John Biehl del Río, OAS representative in Uruguay.

Strategic Plan to Improve Childhood Protection Systems in the Americas and the Caribbean. 6 May 2014, Montevideo, Uruguay

Child Helpline International (CHI) and the Inter-American Children's Institute (a Specialized Organization of the Organization of American States - IIN-OAS) have undertaken a commitment. After their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 4 September 2013, in Santiago, Chile, a joint strategic plan was developed that focuses on increasing helpline services for children in the region. Child Helpline International (CHI) is a global network of helplines working on the issue of child protection. CHI was founded in 2003 and includes 178 members in 143 countries (February 2014). CHI helps establish child helplines in countries where they do not exist, strengthen existing helplines by means of knowledge sharing and training and makes efforts to bolster national child protection systems through evidence-based promotional activities.

Child helplines are often young people's first contact with any type of child protection service. Helplines allow them to reach out to someone in a safe and confidential environment through free telephone services, online chat rooms, SMS/text messaging, care centres and regular postal services.

The strategic partnership between CHI and IIN-OAS will encompass several areas of competence; among them, participation at the 21st Pan American Child Congress, which is to take place in Brazil from 10 to 12 December 2014, and collaboration in international and regional consultancy services.

Annual Meeting of the Global Movement for Children - 7 May, Panama City

Ms Gloria Lozano de Díaz, President of the Directing Council of IIN-OAS, and the Director General, Ms María Dolores Aguilar, attended the Annual Meeting of the Global Movement for Children, Latin America and Caribbean Chapter, held at UNICEF's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ciudad del Saber, Panama City.



The Latin America and Caribbean Chapter of the Global Movement for Children (GMC-LAC) is a strategic partnership of the principal organizations and networks in the region working on the promotion, protection and defence of children's rights. Its members are: UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan International, World Vision International, SOS Children's Villages, ChildFund Alliance, Child Helpline, Defence for Children International (DCI), ECPAT, Latin American and Caribbean Network for the Defence of the Rights of Children (REDLAMYC), ANDI International Network, amongst others.

At this meeting, the President of the Directing Council of the IIN-OAS was able to share with participating organizations and agencies information on the preparations for the 21st Pan American Child Congress, the 2nd Civil Society Forum and the 2nd Pan American Child Participation Forum.

Of significant interest was the presence of Ms Marta Santos Pais, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against children; Ms Sara Oviedo, Vice-President of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and Mr Wanderlino Nogueira, Representative of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Ms Lozano de Díaz and Ms Aguilar had opportunities to meet privately with these personalities in order to promote joint action in the context of the 21st Pan American Congress.

2nd Civil Society Forum, within the framework of the 21st Pan American Child Congress - 12 and 13 August, El Salvador

The Inter-American Children's Institute, with the support of the Department of International Affairs (DIA) of the OAS and the Global Movement for Children, and in coordination with the Pan American Congress host country, celebrated the 2nd Civil Society Forum in San Salvador, El Salvador, on 12 and 13 August 2014, within the framework of the 21st Pan American Child Congress. The purpose of this event was to offer the civil society agencies that monitor the implementation of OAS initiatives, particularly in the area of violence against children, the opportunity to hold discussions and share ideas and experiences on the subject.

The activity was in compliance with the resolution adopted by the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), CP/RES. CP/RES. 759 (1217/99) "Guidelines for the participation of civil society organizations in OAS activities", which fosters the participation of civil society organizations in the Organization's various agencies, meetings, fora and other events.



Present at the meeting were 91 civil society representatives from Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Netherlands/Aruba, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela, in addition to seven representatives from OAS, IIN and El Salvador. The civil society representatives discussed and compiled their recommendations on fighting violence against childhood in the context of the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, juvenile justice systems and sexual exploitation.

Attendance at the Model OAS General Assembly (MOAS) 2014 - 18 and 19 September, Barranquilla, Colombia

The Director General of the IIN, Ms María Dolores Aguilar, took part in the Opening Ceremony of the Fourth Model OAS General Assembly (MOAS) for students of the Colombian Caribbean, which was held at the Universidad del Norte of Barranquilla, Colombia, on 18 September. Present at the event were 330 students from 10 Colombian schools and 4 universities.

On 19 September, the IIN attended a talk with university lecturers at the Model Assembly. There was a presentation on the IIN's institutional activities and discussions on the importance of participation and the experience of listening to children and young people. This represented an opportunity to acknowledge in practice that children and youth are holders of rights.

The MOAS is a programme developed with the aim of promoting democratic values among teenagers and young people in the hemisphere, by means of a simulation activity that reproduces the General Assembly of the OAS. The MOAS Programme seeks to involve the greatest possible number of students, by organizing Models in any of the OAS Member States. This exercise familiarizes students, teachers and academic institutions with the work of the OAS and its Member States, as well as with the role of the Organization as the hemisphere's principal political forum. The Model is the responsibility of the Office of the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS.



Working Meetings held at IIN-OAS Headquarters

Meeting with United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Frank La Rue. 9 July, Montevideo, Uruguay

During his visit to Montevideo, Uruguay, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Frank La Rue, held a meeting with the Director General and Technical Team of the IIN-OAS.

During the meeting, Mr La Rue discussed his areas of interest in relation to children and stressed the fact that the States should fulfil their responsibility of protecting children from the content to which they are exposed in the media, which is detrimental to their development.

For her part, the Director General of IIN-OAS, Ms Dolores Aguilar, remarked that these matters constitute an area of interest in common with the IIN, which is working on the subject of child participation, the encouragement of child-rearing habits based on intergenerational dialogue and non-violent forms of conflict resolution.

During the conversation, the role of the media in holding children accountable for criminal acts was also addressed, as this style of journalistic coverage, which is frequently encountered in the region, stigmatizes and discriminates the most vulnerable children.

Mr La Rue indicated that it was important for the States to exercise their capacity to regulate the press, with a democratic and rights-protecting perspective. Without disregarding the role played by families in guiding and protecting their children, he considered that the States should intervene actively in this subject.

As a result of the meeting, the possibility was discussed of moving forward together in promoting a culture of rights, with the inclusion of the contributions of the Rapporteur's report in forthcoming events held by the IIN.

Call to Protect and Safeguard the Rights of Unaccompanied Migrant Children - 27 June 2014

In view of the seriousness of the situation in Central and North America involving unaccompanied migrant children, IIN-OAS issued a declaration calling upon the States in



the region “confronting a migratory flow of unaccompanied children, either as sending or receiving countries, to establish public policies in order to prevent these situations, and undertake joint actions to address the issue. We have no doubt that work performed in coordination between sending and receiving countries is the best means of doing this”.

The IIN also states that it: “places itself at the disposal of member countries affected by this situation. It can deliver the technical cooperation required and, in particular, support in designing and promoting public policies that will make it possible to stop this migratory flow. In addition, to determine lines of action involving governments and civil society, which will provide swift solutions to the situation of these children, respecting and safeguarding their rights and physical and psychological integrity, in accordance with the international rights and standards contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly the principle of the best interest of the child.”

Visit from senior officials of the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion of the Republic of Ecuador - 29 August. The Director General of the IIN, Ms Dolores Aguilar Marmolejo, welcomed Ms Patricia Sarsoza, Deputy Minister for Social Inclusion, Life Cycle and the Family and Ms Berenice Cordero, Undersecretary for Comprehensive Child Development.

During her visit, the Deputy Minister referred to the transition process that the National Council for Childhood is undergoing and that it is now called the National Council for Intergenerational Equality. She ratified Ecuador’s commitment in defence of child rights in that country.

At the meeting, the authorities from Ecuador were able to learn about the activities carried out by the IIN during the course of 2014; in particular, its technical assistance for the application of non-custodial penalties. This was delivered in Ecuador and involved the IIN, the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Worship and the now National Council for Intergenerational Equality. Technical guidelines were drafted for work with juveniles found guilty of sexual offences and training was provided for teams of ministry officials working on the application of penalties.

Ambassador Hugo Cayrús, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the Organization of the American States, visited the IIN on 15 September.

On 15 September, the IIN welcomed Ambassador Hugo Cayrús, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the Organization of the American States. Some of the matters discussed



were the Institute's regular activities, the commitment of the States with regard to Action Plan 2011-2015 and the Plan's development, and the significance of the events to be held shortly in Brazil: The 89th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council, the 21st Pan American Child Congress, and the 2nd Child Participation Forum.

4. Activities performed in the IIN-OAS's Working Areas

As an organization which works in coordination with the States of the region, the IIN-OAS pays particular attention, through its different working areas, to the requirements of the member States of the Inter-American system in the subjects addressed by the Action Plan. These are the activities that were carried out.

4.1 Area for the Promotion and Protection of Rights

Early Childhood

In relation to the line of work on Early Childhood and in accordance with Action Plan 2011-2015, a new output was produced in 2013: a paper on Guidelines for the Promotion of Family Care and Parenting Capacity. This paper was produced by IIN technicians and the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, with ongoing consultation with and feedback from the technical experts on the Early Childhood Working Group.

It was presented and validated at the 88th Meeting of the Directing Council held in Medellín, in September 2013, CD/RES. 04 (88-R/13). This resolution includes an invitation to the States to develop outreach strategies targeting families, in order to strengthen their care and parenting skills and thus eliminate disparities between the services that focus on early childhood care (early education and health) and the family environment itself. Among other actions, the States, multilateral organizations and strategic partners are urged to promote horizontal activities to share "good practices" and training for operators working with families, as well as to support the States in the process of implementing policies or programmes to underpin the family environment.

Finally, the resolution mandates the Inter-American Children's Institute with the task of supporting and linking the efforts carried out by the States in the region, so that they can put into practice their comprehensive policies to strengthen work on early childhood in the family context.



These Guidelines for the Promotion of Family Care and Parenting Capacity were enhanced by the incorporation of the contributions made during the 88th Meeting and was then circulated in Spanish and in English.

Over the course of 2014, work focused on transferring the knowledge contained in this paper, which was complemented by the Guidelines for the Implementation of Comprehensive Policies for Early Childhood, drafted in 2012.

To this end, face-to-face activities were carried out in three States, as follows:

Workshop on Guidelines for the Implementation of Policies for Early Childhood - 10-13 December 2013, Lima, Peru

A workshop was carried out, attended by public policy managers and technical personnel from 34 municipalities in Lima. Work involved guidelines for the design and implementation of public policies aimed at early childhood. The main focus was on cross-sectoral coordination and its effects throughout the territory. Similarly, a conference was held at the Ministry for Women auditorium, which targeted judges, prosecutors and technical personnel in charge of evaluations prior to judicial decisions. The issues addressed were the importance of the family in child development and alternative solutions when children do not live with their original families. These activities received logistic and financial support from Save the Children.

International Seminar on “Focusing on Early Childhood” - 10-13 June, Asunción, Paraguay

At the seminar, essential aspects of the guidelines on the implementation of public policies aimed at early childhood and the strengthening of parenting capabilities were addressed. During the same mission, working meetings were held with the National Early Childhood Commission in order to assess the level of progress in the implementation of a nationwide public policy. In addition, mid-term priorities were identified, to which the IIN can make technical contributions. These activities received organizational and financial support from Plan International.

Contributions to Early Childhood Policies with a Rights-Based Perspective - 26-29 August, Córdoba, Argentina

In answer to a request from the Municipality of Córdoba, sent through the National Children's Commission, an activity was carried out in order to transfer guidelines on working with early childhood, with an emphasis on family inclusion in processes. Taking part in these activities were the heads of the municipality's 37 nursery schools, and their



technical teams. The event received the organizational and financial support of the Municipality of Córdoba.

Fourth International Meeting of the Hemispheric Network of Legislators and Former Legislators for Early Childhood - 16-17 May 2014, Managua, Nicaragua

As part of the activities to disseminate the guidelines produced by the IIN on Early Childhood and Families, and in response to an invitation from the Government of Nicaragua, the IIN took part in the Fourth Meeting of the NETWORK. The IIN's presence at this event made it possible to learn about the plans and programmes designed for early childhood, which are being implemented by the Government of Nicaragua, and to share lessons learned from other regional experiences.

The Working Group held an online meeting in early 2014, focusing on the following subjects: sharing information on work done by the Directing Council on guidelines for strengthening care and parenting skills, evaluating the course on early childhood policies delivered in 2013, and suggestions for the 2014 course, and progress in transferring the guidelines to the States.

The meeting made it possible to share ideas about the state of progress of policy implementation in the various States and the "critical knots" that they are facing.

Online Course on Early Childhood - 2014

Objective - to provide technicians and planners with elements supporting the significance of early childhood as the first stage of life and with guidelines for the implementation of comprehensive policies with a rights-based approach.

The syllabus designed in 2013 was kept, with the addition of the new knowledge systematized in the paper on guidelines to strengthen care and parenting skills. The course was delivered during the first half of the year and focused on applying the concepts and guidelines to the specific situations experienced by the students.

Technical personnel from nine States in the Inter-American System took part: Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Haiti, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Uruguay.



Course on An Update on Child Rights

As in previous years, an online course on An Update on Child Rights was delivered. This year it was offered in Spanish and in English.

Technical personnel from eight States in the Inter-American System attended the Spanish version of the course: Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The English version of the course – “Introduction to Child Rights” – specifically targeted technical personnel from the Caribbean States. It was attended by Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Participation Thematic Line

During the preparations for the 21st Pan American Child Congress, conversations with the States have increased in order to put into practice a number of guidelines to promote and safeguard the right to participation, through the 2nd Pan American Child Forum. Prior organization has been inclusive and involves children and representatives of the States and the IIN’s strategic partners by means of a Committee subdivided into five sub-committees: logistics, methodology, group dynamics, documentation and style.

The Pan American Forum was conceived as a broad process that encompasses action before, during and after the event.

“Our Colourful Voices” Website - <http://nuestravozacolor.es.org/>.

The IIN-OAS is maintaining a website at <http://nuestravozacolor.es.org/>, which was launched on the occasion of the First Pan American Child Forum. This is a bilingual website (Spanish/English) devoted to promoting the sharing of experiences in the area of child participation. The website has been a highly significant tool for the dissemination of the Forum, and includes activities in which children take part through chat rooms, and asking and answering questions in blogs. There was also an opportunity for adolescents to share opinions on the subject of violence, facilitated by experts. The site includes a Facebook account and a YouTube channel.



One of the events organized in preparation for the Forum was a logo competition, for which the children in the region sent in their proposals. The winning logo design was sent in by a teenager from Venezuela. It has been included in the Forum material and will be publicized during the event.

Preparation Workshops for Teenagers

Workshops were organized which contributed to coaching the adolescents attending the 2nd Pan American Child Forum. These events addressed the issues of violence against children, juvenile justice and sexual exploitation. Cooperation was received from ECPAT, the Marist Foundation and the Opción Foundation in the case of Chile. The Institute, for its part, designed the methodology that served as a starting point to prepare the workshops. Juvenile delegates were selected in several of these workshops and recommendations were drafted to be shared during the Forum.

The States where workshops were conducted were Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Paraguay and Peru. The right to participation was thus promoted on the basis of the right to be informed, to be organized and to give an educated opinion regarding the issues to be addressed at the Pan American Forum.

Second Pan American Child Forum

The right to participation has a key role in the Pan American Child Congress, as it positions children as rights-holders by disseminating their opinions and generating discussion with the authorities on subjects that involve the enjoyment of their rights. Because of this, the IIN has instituted – concurrent to the Congress – an event entitled the Pan American Child Forum, which convenes delegations of children from member States with the purpose of promoting this significant right and principle acknowledged by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children's participation in the Forum constitutes a mandate of the member States originating in resolution CD/RES. 07 (83-R/08), which was adopted at the 83rd Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN, held in Ottawa, Canada, in October 2008.

Because child participation is present on the agendas of OAS Member States, the Pan American Child Forum is an expression of the States' recognition of children's right to participate. They value the points of view of children in the construction of responsible citizenship and ensure the existence of means to facilitate inter-generational participation



and participation between children, inasmuch as child participation is a principle that guides the development of public policies for children.

At present, the development and preparation of the 2nd Pan American Forum is going forward, in coordination with the States' technical experts on participation. International agencies such as World Vision, Save the Children and Plan International are also collaborating in these endeavours. As an outcome of the Forum, it is expected that conclusions will be arrived at and presented to the representatives of the States during a plenary session of the Pan American Congress.

Online Course

During the period being reported on, an online course on "Promotion of Child Participation in the Americas" was delivered. Its objective was to reinforce the commitment and knowledge of State agents, with a view to mainstreaming effective participation in the daily activities of institutions.

It targeted participation facilitators in governing bodies for children, seeking to strengthen competencies so that the State itself can promote this right. The course was eight weeks long and was attended by officials from different institutions in the States of Argentina, El Salvador, Mexico and Paraguay.

Twenty-First Pan American Congress

In connection with the 21st Pan American Child Congress, a background document was produced on the promotion of child participation in the region, in the context of violence against children. The purpose of this paper is to establish an initial position regarding a right that has become one of the most disseminated and exercised rights in the region, and which is particularly relevant to the activities of the Pan American Child Forum.

The paper is available on the 21st Pan American Child Congress website as recommended reading for State officials, specialists and promoters of the right to participation in the hemisphere.



The Sexual Exploitation of Children

Amongst the resolutions of the General Assembly which constitute mandates to the IIN-OAS in this area, of particular note is AG/RES. 2432 (XXXVIII-O/08) of 3 June 2008, in which it is resolved to welcome the decision of the Directing Council of the IIN¹ to instruct the Director General to develop an “Inter-American Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children”².

In this context, in 2007, the Directing Council of the IIN adopted resolution CD/RES.10 (82-R/07), which created the *Inter-American Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Commercial Exploitation, Illegal Trafficking and Trade in Children and Adolescents*. In 2008, the General Assembly of the OAS welcomed this step taken by the Directing Council of the IIN and adopted resolution AG/RES. 2432 (XXXVIII-O/08). Since then, the IIN has submitted yearly progress reports on the Inter-American Programme, giving rise to a number of resolutions issued by the General Assembly of the OAS: AG/RES. 2486 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2548 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2686 (XLI-O/11) and AG/RES. 2686 (XL-O/11)³. AG/RES. 2707 (XLII-O/12 and AG/RES. 2771 (XLIII-O/13); and AG/Doc. 2828(XLIV-O/14).

These resolutions, the last of which was adopted by the General Assembly held in Asunción, in June 2014, reaffirm the currency and relevance of the issue, inasmuch as “*the sexual exploitation and smuggling of and trafficking in boys, girls, and adolescents of both sexes continues to have a considerable impact on our states, and, therefore, that it is necessary to continue implementing effective policies and strategies to combat those criminal acts...*”. At the same time, it is acknowledged that “*IIN has continued to make progress in implementing the Inter-American Cooperation Program for the Prevention and Eradication of the Sexual Exploitation, Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children*” and the States are urged to increase their efforts to invest in plans and programmes for the eradication of SEC.

¹ CD/RES. 10 (82-R/07) adopted at the 82nd Regular Meeting, 26-27/July/2007, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

² During the 87th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council, a resolution was reviewed and adopted, changing the name of the programme to “Sexual Exploitation of Children”.

³ Documents available from: Organization of American States. General Assembly. Declarations and Resolutions: <http://www.oas.org/en/sla/general_assembly_resolutions.asp>



The structure of the Inter-American Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation, Illegal Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children, includes three working areas:

- 1) Compilation and update of information regarding CSEC in the region, to be made available to States Party.
- 2) Generation of information and knowledge on the subject of CSEC, which will aid States Party in the design and implementation of their policies and action in addressing this problem.
- 3) Training human resources and providing specialized technical assistance to States Party.

1) Compilation and update of information regarding CSEC in the region, to be made available to States Party

In relation to the promotion of horizontal cooperation and the sharing of experiences at a regional level, the principal actions have included:

a) Updating the www.annaobserva.org website. This entailed compiling, systematizing and categorizing information in order to place it at the disposal of States and organizations. As from March 2014, visits to the site began to be monitored by means of Google Analytics. Between March and July 2014, the site received a total of 990 visits (on average, 150 visits per month), from a total of 618 users. The ten countries from which the greatest number of visitors originate are, in descending order: Uruguay, United States, Chile, El Salvador, Brazil, Canada, Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru.

Source: Google Analytics

b) Activation of the network of liaison officers, through whom ongoing contact is maintained with the technical reference points in the States. The IIN-OAS maintains ongoing relations with the national commissions of the member States of the Inter-American system.

c) Regional meeting to share "Good Practices". In order to continue with the yearly organization of a regional meeting to share good practices, a Fourth Sub-Regional Meeting was held on "Prevention, Protection and Restitution of Rights in the face of SEC in Travel and Tourism: Experiences for Reflection". The meeting was organized by the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN), of the Organization of American States, in coordination with the National Council for Childhood and Adolescence (CONNA), representing the State



of El Salvador.

This Fourth Meeting took place in the city of San Salvador, El Salvador, on 1 and 2 October 2013, as part of the Inter-American Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children. It was attended by technical representatives from the Central American States, as well as the Dominican Republic and Mexico. The key focus of the meeting was sharing experiences and good practices that strengthen coordination and harmonization among regional and national institutions, with the purpose of forming networks for prevention and to deal with trafficking and CSEC in Travel and Tourism. Representatives of the following States attended: Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and El Salvador. Representatives of international organizations such as UNICEF, IOM, ILO and IIN-OAS also attended as speakers.

The presentations and the agreed outcome document were organized and published as a further volume in the series, "Good Practices V" (and can be retrieved from: <http://www.annaobserva.org/2012/?p=683>)

d) Participation in Events and Agreements with Strategic Partners

As part of the compilation and dissemination of significant information on the fight against SEC, trafficking and other forms of sexual violence, we include the IIN's presence at events organized by a number of States in the Inter-American System and the realization of working agreements and sharing with strategic partners. During the period covered by this report, the IIN attended the following events:

International Seminar: The commercial sexual exploitation of children: an approach to trafficking and sexual tourism - 23 and 24 October 2013, Iquique, Chile.

This was an international event with a regional scope, attended by authorities from the State of Chile (SENAME, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, the Police Force), and speakers from Peru, Bolivia and Brazil, in addition to authorities from UNICEF and other organizations. The Brazilian presenter shared the experience of Mercosur. The seminar had significant impact on local networks, as the problem of trafficking and CSEC-TT has gained in visibility in this city. A total of 250 people attended, most of them operators involved in programmes functioning in Iquique.

One of the outcomes of this activity was the recognition of IIN as a regional point of reference in policies to prevent, eradicate and restore rights in relation to CSEC. The appreciation of the Chilean State was made explicit during the opening ceremony.



Particularly mentioned were the training delivered by the IIN by means of its yearly blended course and its technical assistance in drafting the Second Framework for Action.

“Regional consultation on action to eliminate commercial sexual exploitation of children in Latin America” - 5 to 7 May 2014, Panama

Some of the objectives of this consultation, organized by End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT), were to discuss the regional situation in relation to CSEC, as well as progress and challenges in the countries in which ECPAT is active, and to establish a regional organizational strategy, in anticipation of the forthcoming World Congress to be held in Paris.

The subjects addressed during the meeting were: CSEC in travel and tourism, the impact of the new technologies and the legal gaps existing in the region.

Some of the more noteworthy outcomes were the strengthening of links between the IIN and ECPAT, with a focus on the 21st Congress, and the information sharing conducted between IIN and ECPAT.

2) Generation of information and knowledge on the subject of CSEC, which will aid States Party in the design and implementation of their policies and action in addressing this problem.

a) Work continued on the production and dissemination of **Issues Notes**, with the following content:

- Issues Note N° 4/13. *Reports to the Secretary General of the OAS and Twenty-First Pan American Child Congress.* Available from: <<http://www.annaobserva.org/2012/?p=592>>
- Issues Note N° 1/14. *Public policies for the eradication of SEC, as seen through national plans.* Available from: <<http://www.annaobserva.org/2012/?p=619>>
- Issues Note N° 2/14. *A goal against impunity. A World Cup without sexual violence.* Available from: <<http://www.annaobserva.org/2012/?p=663>>.
- Issues Note N° 3/14. *National plans as perceived through the comments of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.* Available from: <http://www.annaobserva.org/2012/?p=663>

b) Included in this working area is the production of the **Annual Report to the Secretary General of the OAS**. During the period covered by this report, work was conducted on the issues of Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (13th Report, 2013) and National Action Plans to address CSEC (14th Report, 2014).



The 13th Report refers to commercial sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism (CSEC-TT), an issue that has generated concern in the international community in recent decades, because of the increasing emergence of places and communities frequented by travellers who engage in sexual relations with local children.

This study aims to analyse some of the experiences that have been developed in the region to prevent and eradicate this form of sexual exploitation, in order to draw knowledge with which to strengthen the capacities of the States and social organizations.

The study is organized in four parts. In the first, the theoretical framework underpinning our handling of the subject of CSEC-TT is described. In the second part, a brief reference is made to the position of the issue on the agenda of the international community. The third part contains an analysis of the practices identified in the States included in the study: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Peru. An analytical matrix chart is used, with a focus on the “Stockholm categories”. Finally, a number of conclusions are drawn and recommendations are made.

As well as being submitted to the Secretary General, the report was disseminated by means of the network of liaison officers and published on the Programme website. It can be retrieved from: <<http://www.annaobserva.org/2012/?p=586>>

The 14th Report on National Action Plans to Address CSEC is being produced over the course of 2014. Based on case studies conducted in some of the States in the Inter-American System, it seeks to identify certain critical points in the design and implementation of these plans, in order to draw lessons and make recommendations which will contribute to the consolidation of broad and effective public policies for the protection of child rights in the hemisphere.

Among the recommendations made to the States in Rio de Janeiro, we should note particularly the recommendation about developing and implementing ***“National Plans of Action on the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents [...] based in a cross-sectoral approach which brings all stakeholders together in a coherent and comprehensive framework for action. These Plans should incorporate gender-sensitive strategies, social protection measures and operational plans, with adequate monitoring and evaluation***



targeted resources and designated responsible actors, including civil society organizations for implementation of initiatives to prevent and stop the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and provide support for child victims of sexual exploitation.”.

In view of this, we feel that it is relevant to address the analysis of National Plans and their implementation as the core topic of the 14th Report to the Secretary General and a pivotal focus of the 21st Congress's work on SEC.

In producing the Report, we shall draw upon three principal sources of information:

- ✓ Information provided by the States in the Inter-American System
- ✓ Reports submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child by the States and the comments they received

Documents produced by other agents of acknowledged expertise in the subject. In order to begin compiling information, a questionnaire was sent to the States, which was completed by: Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. The fact that the Third Congress was held in Brazil gave rise to a significant amount of regional activity. To date, most OAS member States have designed and implemented their Action Plans with varying levels of effectiveness as regards implementation and, on the whole, little evaluation of the real impact of the actions performed. The study aims to focus on specific reference points as regards the strengths and weaknesses of these Plans, using the Stockholm classification as a benchmark. Three elements will be stressed: cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation between the States in the struggle against CSEC; legal frameworks, and strategies for prevention and the restitution of rights.

3) Training human resources and providing specialized technical assistance to States Party. The blended course on SEC has continued to be imparted, as part of the training activities for operators. This course has been offered since 2010, in agreement with States willing to undertake the face-to-face component.

The course is in two stages. One is a distance stage (online) delivered from the IIN-OAS for all State participants. The second, face-to-face stage, is the responsibility of each of the States, on the basis of a work plan previously agreed between national authorities and the IIN-OAS.



The online stage of the 2014 edition of the course was carried out in May and July and the participating States were Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador and Uruguay.

The face-to-face component is carried out in accordance to programmes produced by the authorities in the States on the basis of the special features of SEC in each country and the priorities arising as a result. These proposals formed the basis of the initial agreement between the IIN-OAS and the participating States.

Twenty-First Pan American Congress

Work on the Inter-American Programme in 2014 is strongly linked to the organization of the 21st Pan American Child Congress, in view of the fact that SEC is one of the Congress's key thematic lines.

This led to the dynamic increase of contact with regional and international reference points on the subject, as well as the production of the IIN's background document on these forms of rights violations. In addition, the Institute's communication channels were constantly fed with news and material referring to these issues.

At the preparatory stage, working partnerships were established with strategic partners, with ECPAT's contributions being highly valued in this thematic line. The States were invited to join the discussion panels with their experiences.

4.2 Legal Area

Juvenile Justice

In compliance with Action Plan 2011-2015, the IIN has been working on the following outputs and activities during the period covered by this report.

Institutional technical guidelines for the application of non-custodial penalties and measures with juvenile offenders and for a work methodology to be implemented subsequent to the fulfilment of non-custodial penalties.

With the support of the Working Group, a technical guidelines paper was produced during the first half of 2013, for the implementation and execution of non-custodial socio-educational penalties or measures. After dealing with significant aspects relative to the



subject, the paper gives general guidelines for the implementation of alternative and early termination measures and the implementation of non-custodial penalties.

A technical assistance project was designed, based on these guidelines, with the support, for the training component, of the People's Republic of China in its capacity as OAS observer State.

This technical assistance was delivered to the States of Colombia, Guatemala, Panama and Ecuador.

The purpose of the technical assistance was to contribute to the protection of the human rights of juveniles in conflict with criminal law within the framework of international treaties in this area, and provide support to governing bodies for children and juvenile justice systems, regarding their technical capacity for the establishment and/or improvement of technical regulations for the execution of non-custodial penalties with a human rights approach, in compliance with international regulations.

In this respect, during the period covered by this report the following activities took place:

Memorandum of understanding with participating States, appointment of liaison officers for each party, responsible for the implementation of the project.

One technical meeting was held in each of these three States: Colombia, Guatemala and Panama. Agreements were reached regarding actions to be performed, liaison officers were appointed by each party, who would be responsible for the implementation of the project and activities, work schedules and sustainability commitments were established and agreed. Meetings were also held with other stakeholders. In the case of Ecuador, there was an initial meeting in Quito in January and agreements were subsequently reached in online meetings.

Colombia

Counterpart: Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF).

The technical meeting was held on 23 and 24 September according to an agenda established beforehand with the technical liaison officer and with the participation of the



Assistant Director⁴ for Juvenile Criminal Liability, Ms Alejandra Campos Ruiz and her team, who are in charge of the ICBF's mandate in this matter. There was also an opportunity to exchange ideas with other system stakeholders in Colombia.

Ecuador

Counterpart: Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Worship

At a first meeting held on 30 January, the work performed in Colombia, Guatemala and Panama was described to the Director General of the National Directorate for Comprehensive Care of Adolescents in Conflict with the Law, after which she expressed her Directorate's interest in receiving the IIN's technical assistance.

Guatemala

Counterpart: Family Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic (SBS)

The meeting was held on 26 and 27 September according to an agenda established beforehand with the technical liaison officer and with the participation of the Undersecretary for the Social Reintegration of Adolescents in Conflict with Criminal Law and the Director of Reintegration and Resocialization, Socio-Educational Measures Programme. The Social Welfare Secretariat and its technical team.

Panama

Counterpart: National Childhood and Family Secretariat (SENNIAF)

The meeting was held on 30 September and 1 October, according to an agenda established beforehand with the technical liaison officer and with the participation of the Director General of SENNIAF, the Coordinator of the Re-Educational Measures Programme and the institution's legal advisor.

⁴The Under Directorate for Juvenile Criminal Liability answers to the Childhood Protection Directorate, as established in the ICBF's organization chart.



Production or improvement of current technical guidelines for the implementation of non-custodial penalties and post-sentence support.

Colombia

Technical assistance was provided for the revision of guidelines for the execution of penalties produced by the ICBF. Comments and recommendations were submitted and work was carried out on technical guidelines for work with adolescents found guilty of criminal offences of a sexual nature and on a methodological intervention model. These will be part of an appendix to the technical guidelines on the subject produced by the ICBF as the body responsible for the execution of non-custodial penalties.

Ecuador

Technical guidelines were developed for working with adolescents found guilty of criminal offences of a sexual nature, incorporating an intervention methodology model to be used by Comprehensive Care Centre teams.

Guatemala

Technical guidelines were developed for work with adolescents found guilty of criminal offences of a sexual nature and on a methodological intervention model. Their contents will be incorporated by the Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic in its work as the executor of non-custodial penalties.

Panama

Work was performed on the development of the National Children and Families Secretariat's technical guidelines, with a focus on the methodological intervention model used to work with adolescents who undergo "re-educational measures".

Online and face-to-face training, involving knowledge about and the application of non-custodial penalties, for officials selected by the governing body for children in each counterpart State.

This course focuses on training the project counterpart's technical team in each State in the technical guideline being addressed.



Training in the intervention model used for juvenile sexual offenders

This course was organized in two stages, as anticipated, and was implemented in each State.

The online stage of the course was four weeks long. A course was designed for each State and delivered by means of the IIN's Moodle platform. In the case of Colombia and Guatemala, the course began in the last week of October and ended prior to the implementation of the face-to-face stage, which was held in Guatemala on 27, 28 and 29 November, and in Colombia on 2, 3 and 4 December. For Ecuador, the online stage of the course began on 5 March and concluded with the face-to-face stage held from 25 to 27 March 2014.

In all three courses, the officials who were trained were part of, or had direct contact with the technical teams (psychologist-social worker team) who implement the non-custodial penalties, and attendance was nationwide.

Training was delivered to a total of:

- 34 officials from the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF)(Colombia)
- 34 officials from the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Worship, and National Council for Childhood in Transition (Ecuador)
- 36 officials from the Social Welfare Secretariat (Guatemala)

Total: 103 officials trained.

Training in the intervention model “Re-Education Measure, Panama”

As in Colombia and Guatemala, the online stage was imparted from within the IIN's teaching platform, as from the last week in October and was four weeks long.

The face-to-face stage took place on 25 and 26 November.

The course was attended by officials from SENNIAF, as well as from the judiciary, the public defender's office and the public prosecutor's office, so that they could all become familiar with the methodology to be implemented by SENNIAF in the execution of the re-



education measure it is responsible for, thus gaining the confidence of these stakeholders in the application of this type of measure.

Officials trained were mainly from the National Secretariat for Childhood and Families. Officials from the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Interdisciplinary Institute were also included.

Course on general aspects of criminal liability systems "SIRPA".

The objective of this course was to gain understanding regarding the principal characteristics of juvenile justice and the features that should be present in the system for it to be considered specialized. It targeted public officials involved in Juvenile Justice Systems.

The course touched upon the general framework of the doctrine of comprehensive protection and the *corpus juris* on child human rights, with an analysis of how the States have implemented it. It then provided links between the general and the specific principles of specialized criminal systems for juveniles, the educational principle, the purpose of the systems and measures and juvenile criminal penalties. In the fourth module, the course introduced ideas on how to put these matters into practice, with some general background on mainly socio-educational and restorative concepts. It should be noted that the papers produced on these issues by the IIN were incorporated into the various modules.

The course was delivered over six weeks in April to May, and was attended by officials from Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay.

21st Pan American Child Congress

Among the preparations for the 21st Pan American Congress was the production of the background paper on the thematic line involving Juvenile Justice. The document was drafted with the contributions and support of the States' technical liaison officers, who constitute the working group in this field. In addition, comments were received from the Rapporteur on the Rights of Children of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against children.



In its central pages, the document refers to developments and challenges regarding non-custodial penalties and alternative and early termination measures, and some conclusions are put forward.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENT ON THE TWENTY-FIRST PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS
THEMATIC FOCUS: JUVENILE JUSTICE

In addition, presenters and panellists were selected and invited to speak at the Congress. Efforts were made to choose both academic experts and specialists from agencies involved in human rights protection. The States were also invited to participate on the panels, and to choose subjects in which their experience could be most useful to the 21st Congress.

International Child Abduction

In response to the mandates received through resolution AG/RES. 2028 (XXXIV-O/04) - "Inter-American Programme on Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy cases of International Abduction of Minors by one of their Parents", and AG/RES. 2133 (XXXV-O/05) of the same name, and in addition, through the resolution adopted by the Directing Council of the IIN-OAS, CD/RES. 03 (82-R/07) - "Application of the Inter-American Programme on Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy cases of International Abduction of Minors by one of their Parents", the IIN carried out the following actions in the period covered by this report, thanks to the contribution received from Argentina:

Guidelines for the design of interventions that avoid revictimization and detect psychosocial intervention needs for child victims of abduction.

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines to stakeholders in abduction processes, in order to enable their interventions to focus on the well-being of the child and his/her right to have the process address the restitution of whatever rights may have been affected. The paper adopts a rights-based approach and not only suggests a multi-disciplinary analysis of the situation that children experience during an ICA event, but also contributes specific lines of action, strategies to address these situations, legal guidelines and useful information for operators in the States' socio-legal systems.



Inter-American Course on International Child Abduction (ICA)

The 8th edition of this course was imparted. Its objectives focused on allowing participants to make an in-depth study of basic concepts and theoretical, doctrinal and regulatory elements in the subject of international child abduction, as well as to analyse this phenomenon, particularly in the Inter-American setting.

This course is open to professionals from different fields who have a connection to the matter of international child abduction, so that the perspective of other professional areas can be incorporated to the legal knowledge existing on the subject.

The course was attended by participants from Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico and Panama.

Update of these issues on the IIN's website.

An update was conducted of the data and information published on the ICA website, which is incorporated into the IIN's website.

ICA Toolkit

The outputs developed during the period covered by this report are linked to and complemented by the activities carried out by IIN since 2010 (Actions proposed for the application of the Inter-American Convention on the International Restitution of Minors, Glossary and description of basic ICA-related terms and concepts, an informative tool for users and the general population). All of this material has been included, together with the model form produced previously by the IIN and the international regulations on the subject, in a folder-style publication that also contains summaries of the documents on printed, easy-to-use cards. Also available at the following link: [ICA](#)

Legal Database (BADAJ)

BADAJ, the legal database (www.badaj.org), was redesigned to provide a more updated and secure format. Information on this database is updated on a regular basis, thus facilitating the search for specialized legislation containing specific databases in subjects such as: the commercial sexual exploitation of children, juvenile criminal justice, international child abduction and others.



4.3. Area for Child Rights in the face of Natural Disaster Risk and Emergencies

This subject is included as one of the priority workstreams in IIN-OAS's Action Plan 2011-2015. Material on disaster risk management focuses on a rights-based political and methodological perspective. In this respect, the IIN-OAS's position is based on the comprehensive protection of children, which must cross-cut any action or intervention programme or policy adopted to confront risks and emergencies.

The paper that underpins its action in this area is the "Policy Framework for the Promotion and Protection of Children in Disaster Risk Management" (PF), which suggests specific strategies for the design and revision of public policies, provides methodological alternatives and recommends instruments and tools. It uses an approach that focuses on child rights in disaster risk management, in order to explain (and apply) the issues arising in the policy position paper.

Operational handbooks to complement the conceptual, technical and methodological guidelines (policy framework) for the promotion and protection of child rights in disaster risk management have been produced.

Complementary Public Policy Framework Guides

Guide 1 - Management and strategic coordination: Operating tools for public officials

Targeting decision makers at different levels of government (national, sub-national and local) in governing bodies for children, public administration linked to the governing body, protection or civil defence systems, risk management and disaster administration, or disaster risk management.

Guide 2 - An operating handbook on the comprehensive protection of children in disasters and emergencies.

Targeting public administration professionals and technical specialists who are, or could be, directly involved with children in emergencies and disasters.

Guide 3 - Adolescent promoters as agents of change in disaster risk management.

Targeting public administration professionals and technical specialists who have links to the governing body, protection or civil defence systems, risk management and disaster



administration, or disaster risk management policy, and who are, or could be, directly involved with children.

Implementation of the Public Policy Framework and Guides

With regard to the implementation of the Policy Framework, work was conducted in the States of the Dominican Republic, Panama and Peru, thanks to the support of the Principality of Monaco and World Vision.

Dominican Republic, Panama and Peru

The following activities were carried out:

1. Knowledge Transfer Meeting with Decision Makers

General Objective: To share the Policy Framework guidelines and tools for the promotion and protection of children's rights in disaster risk management.

Specific Objectives:

- ⇒ To share the process of producing the policy framework guidelines.
- ⇒ To explore the role of the governing body responsible for the protection of children's rights in disaster risk management.
- ⇒ To socialize "*Guide Nº 1 - Management and Coordination - Operating tools for decision makers*".

2. Transfer Workshop with Operators

General Objective: To strengthen the capacity of the governing body's technical staff and of strategic partners, in relation to incorporating actions for the protection of child rights in disaster risk management, through the socialization of Guide Nº 2: "*A handbook for operators on the comprehensive protection of children in disasters and emergencies, targeting public officials*".

With the contributions made by the States in the transfer of these tools, the Institute addressed the task of carrying out final adjustments in order to arrive at the final draft of these documents.



Online Course

In line with the training offered by the IIN to the States in the Inter-American System, as part of the project and based on the tool implementation experience, the first course on “Protecting Child Rights in Disaster Risk Management” was delivered. The course was attended by officials from the States of: Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay.

4.4 Area for Caribbean Coordination

In the period of this report, the IIN has strengthened its collaboration with the CARICOM states.

In the framework of the 88th session of the IIN Directing Council in Medellin, Colombia, in September 2013, the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS Ambassador Albert Ramdin, took the initiative of convening an informal meeting with the representatives of the CARICOM states, the President of the IIN Directing Council Mrs. Gloria Lozana de Díaz, and the IIN Director General Ms Dolores Aguilar. Pursuant to these conversations the IIN proposed a programme of collaboration with those states in accordance with priorities indicated at that meeting, to contribute to implementation of the IIN Plan of Action 2011-2015. The proposal, circulated to the CARICOM states following the meeting, was aimed at incorporating those states in the work of the IIN, taking into account their areas of interest.

The on-line course Introduction to Child Rights was prepared, and implemented in English between March 17 and May 19, 2014, focusing on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Participants were from the following government ministries and agencies responsible for child rights: Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

Among the various preparatory activities for the XXI Pan American Child Congress, the IIN collaborated with the Open Campus of the University of the West Indies, Caribbean Child Development Center in Jamaica, to organize a Caribbean Virtual Forum on November 12, 2014. Ten sites of the University (Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines), each with ten participants, held a dialogue whose conclusions were presented to the XXI Child Congress. The objective of this event was to disseminate



information on the theme of the Congress: Violence against Children: Building Peaceful Environments.

The Caribbean Coordination of the IIN served as liaison with all areas of the Institute for the preparation in English of documentation for the XXI Congress, and highlights for the IIN Newsletter. A technical assistance project to seek external funding is currently under consultation.

4.5 Communication and Information Area

Strategy is based on Action Plan 2011-2015 and targets the priority issues established in it: 1. Early Childhood 2. Natural Disasters, and 3. Violence, among others.

Among the permanent activities which are carried out and gain in strength yearly, are:

Websites Ongoing information updates and consolidation of the IIN's website <http://www.iin.oea.org> as well as of its platforms:

- For the *Inter-American Programme to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Child Abduction* www.sinna.org
- *Nuestra Voz a Colores* (Our Colourful Voices), an online area where children can participate www.nuestravozacolores.org Changes were carried out in this site in order to circulate information regarding the Second Pan American Child Forum.
- Legal database specializing in childhood and the right to a family www.badaj.org. The site was completely overhauled, with a new design to streamline its operation and achieve a more appropriate transmission of its contents.
- Inter-American Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Commercial Exploitation, Illegal Trafficking and Trade in Children and Adolescents. www.annaobserva.org
- 21st Pan American Child Congress. www.xxicongresopanamericano.org. This site was specifically designed for the Congress to be held in Brasilia, Brazil, from 9 to 12 December 2014, and contains information on the subjects to be addressed:



1. Twenty-Five Years after the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC): Building Peaceful Environments.
2. Child Sexual Exploitation in the Americas. A Rights-Based Approach.
3. Juvenile Justice.

Also available on the site is information on the 2nd Pan American Child Forum and the 2nd Civil Society Forum.

IIN-OAS WEBSITE MONITORING

Each of the sites is monitored by Google Analytics, which provides statistics on the visits our sites receive.

The tool provides information on how many people have access to our websites, frequency of visits, days, specific times and countries in which our visitors live.

Google Analytics has made it possible for us to discover what our audience is interested in and improve our sites.

SOCIAL NETWORKS

The Inter-American Children's Institute is active on three social networks. Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Instituto-Interamericano-del-Ni%C3%B1o-la-Ni%C3%B1a-y-Adolescentes/118204568274119?ref=hl>), with over 2000 'likes'. We post between three and five items a week on information and matters of interest related to the IIN's work.

Our posts this year have reached an average of 1800 views by the users of this social network, with a participation level which exceeds 50% among our followers; that is, persons who comment, share and like our posts.

Our Twitter account (@IINOEA) has passed the 700-follower mark, with frequent interactions, "retweets" and messages from and about various stakeholders, governing bodies, strategic partners and organizations connected to the promotion of child rights.

YouTube. (<http://www.youtube.com/user/2012IINOEA>) We created a new design for this audiovisual network in order to disseminate the videos produced by the Institute that innovatively promote child rights.

The strategy for these social networks is to continuously project the IIN-OAS's websites,

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multimedia material, activities and news.

Special accounts were set up in order to publicize messages and material related to the 21st Pan American Child Congress, and their number of followers is increasing.

Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/XXICPNNA?ref=hl>)

Twitter ([@CongresoNNA](https://twitter.com/CongresoNNA))

IIN-OAS DIGITAL NEWSLETTERS

Four newsletters were produced, which are available on the IIN's website:

Newsletter Nº 15 (2014) - 87th Anniversary of IIN-OAS It provides a brief account of the Institute's work since its foundation and the bodies that compose it, as well as a general overview of the 21st Pan American Child Congress.

August. Newsletter Nº 16 (2014) - The Twenty-First Pan American Child Congress. It describes the events to take place in Brasilia, Brazil, from 9 to 12 December, during this Congress, whose motto is "Childhood: Building Peaceful Environments", and which will address key issues.

It also provides information on the 2nd Pan American Child Forum and the 2nd Civil Society Forum.

Newsletter Nº 17 (2014) - 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). On the occasion of the CRC's anniversary, information focused on developments over time in our various thematic lines, which are in accordance with the CRC.

Newsletter Nº 18 (2014/2015) is being planned. In it we shall provide information on the outcome of the 21st Pan American Child Congress.

These publications are available on the IIN's website at the following link:
<http://www.iin.oea.org/IIN2011/materiales-boletines.shtml>

ONLINE COURSE ON RIGHTS AND THE MEDIA

An online course on "Child Rights and the Media" was held in September and October, with the purpose of delivering communications strategies for the promotion of child rights.



The course targeted public officials working in the field of communication, who are involved in areas and actions that aim to promote and protect child rights. It included the following subjects: a) An update on child rights, b) Government and the media, c) The new communicator's vision, d) Communication and dissemination strategies.

The States of Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela took part.

NEWSLETTER SENT TO THE OAS NETWORK MAILING LIST

An internal dissemination strategy was implemented by the communication area, which consisted of a newsletter mailed to all the users of the OAS internal network. The purpose of this newsletter is to publicize the Institute's activities within the organization itself. It is also circulated via e-mail to the representatives to the Directing Council, representatives to the Permanent Council and strategic partners.

The newsletters can also be consulted on the IIN's website at the following link:
<http://www.iin.oea.org/IIN2011/materiales-boletines.shtml>

DESIGN AND DISSEMINATION OF COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS

Throughout the year, work has been carried out on the design, production and dissemination of the Institute's communications material:

Brochure on the 87th anniversary of the IIN-OAS.

Reprint of the book on Public Policies and the Human Rights of Children: General Comments; 2014, which was included in the ICA Toolkit folder.

Juvenile Justice: a new perspective - IIN-OAS

Disaster Risk Management Folder. Including four documents:

- **Policy Framework**
- **Guide 1 - Management and strategic coordination: Operating tools for public officials**
- **Guide 2 - An operating handbook on the comprehensive protection of children in disasters and emergencies.**
- **Guide 3 - Adolescent promoters as agents of change in disaster risk management.**



These publications are available on the IIN's website:
<http://www.iin.oea.org/IIN2011/english/materiales-publicaciones.shtml>

Twenty-First Pan American Congress

A joint communication strategy was put in place with the host country (Brazil)'s liaison officer.

Some of the activities included:

- Designing a website (xxicongresopanamericano.org)
- Designing (partly and in full) the logos for the 89th Meeting of the Directing Council, the 21st PACC, the 2nd Pan American Child Forum.
- Producing promotion and dissemination material to be set up at the event.
- Designing the Official 21st PACC Schedule.
- Designing agendas for the children and facilitators attending the 2nd PACF.
- Devising a communication strategy to handle the media, and organize press conferences and press releases.
- Setting up social network links to publicize the event: Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/XXICPNNA?ref=hl>) y Twitter (@CongresoNNA).
- We anticipate producing a report containing a compilation of all the activities that take place during the 21st PACC and the 2nd PACF held in Brasilia, Brazil.

4.6 Online Training

Every year the IIN delivers courses in an online or blended format, with the purpose of helping the States to develop their public policies and improve their capacity to design and implement them from the perspective of promoting, protecting and respecting child rights in the region. The online component is implemented entirely by the IIN. In blended courses, the IIN is responsible for the first stage, which is online, and the participating member State assumes responsibility for the second, face-to-face, stage.

Thus, the staff and officials of the governing bodies of a number of States in the region received training.

The courses use the Moodle platform; a tool that simplifies learning for course participants.



The following online courses were offered for 2014:

| VIRTUAL TRAINING PROGRAM 2014 | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Update on Rights English</p> <p>Understanding the relationships and differences between the concepts of needs and rights as children.</p> <p> Grenada, Jamaica, Santa Lucia, San Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad y Tobago</p> | <p>2. Update on Rights Spanish</p> <p>Identifying and analyzing the inalienable role of individuals and institutions working with children and adolescents to facilitate and ensure the fulfillment of children's rights enshrined in the Convention.</p> <p> Argentina, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Uruguay</p> |
| <p>3. International Child Abduction</p> <p>Understanding the basic concepts and theoretical, doctrinal and normative elements on the subject of the international abduction of children and adolescents.</p> <p> Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama</p> | <p>4. Child and Adolescent Participation</p> <p>Contributing to the training of promoter's participation under a rights approach improving business practices in the promotion of this right.</p> <p> Argentina, Paraguay</p> |
| <p>5. Early Childhood</p> <p>Providing technicians and planners with the elements on the importance of early childhood, early period of life and guidelines for the implementation of comprehensive public policies with a Rights approach.</p> <p> Chile, El Salvador, Uruguay</p> | <p>6. Adolescent Criminal Responsibility</p> <p>Providing knowledge and learning about concepts in criminal justice specialist for adolescents.</p> <p> Chile, Ecuador, Mexico</p> |
| <p>7. Commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. (ESCNA) 2014</p> <p>Collaborating with Member States in the training of human resources for the prevention and combat commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, and the restoration of rights of those affected.</p> <p> Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Uruguay.</p> | <p>8. Rights of Children and Media</p> <p>Promoting a better quality of communication strategies in promoting the rights of children and adolescents.</p> <p> Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, El Salvador Mexico, Peru, Uruguay</p> |



5 IIN-OAS Presence in the Region

| The Presence of the IIN-OAS in the Region | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Central America | North America | South America | CARICOM |
| <p>Dominican Republic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge Transfer Meeting with Decision Makers for the promotion and protection of children's rights in disaster risk management. <p>El Salvador</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd Civil Society Forum, within the framework of the 21st Pan American Child Congress <p>Guatemala</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical meeting regarding Juvenile Justice Training in the intervention model used for juvenile sexual offenders <p>Nicaragua</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourth International Meeting of the Hemispheric | <p>Mexico</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third World Congress on Early Childhood Public Policy <p>United States of America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Report submitted to the Permanent Council of the OAS Meeting of the President of the Directing Council with Dr. José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the OAS Meeting of the President of the Directing Council with Emb. Albert R. Ramdim, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS Youth Conference of the Americas | <p>Argentina</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributions to Early Childhood Policies with a Rights-Based Perspective <p>Brazil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 89th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN-OAS <p>Chile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Seminar: The commercial sexual exploitation of children: an approach to trafficking and sexual tourism <p>Colombia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN-OAS Attendance at the Model OAS General Assembly (MOAS) 2014 with adolescents. | <p>Jamaica</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caribbean Virtual Forum on Child Participation |

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| <p>Network of Legislators and Former Legislators for Early Childhood</p> <p>Panama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Meeting of the Global Movement for Children • “Regional consultation on action to eliminate commercial sexual exploitation of children in Latin America” • Technical meeting regarding Juvenile Justice • Training in the intervention model “Re-Education Measure, Panama” • Knowledge Transfer Meeting with Decision Makers for the promotion and protection of children’s rights in disaster risk management. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical meeting regarding Juvenile Justice • Training in the intervention model used for juvenile sexual offenders. <p>Ecuador</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical meeting regarding Juvenile Justice • Training in the intervention model used for juvenile sexual offenders. <p>Paraguay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Seminar on “Focusing on Early Childhood” • Preparation Workshops for Teenagers <p>Peru</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on Guidelines for the Implementation of Policies for Early Childhood • Knowledge Transfer Meeting with Decision Makers for the promotion and protection of children’s rights in disaster risk management. <p>Uruguay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commemoration of the eighty-seventh anniversary | |
|---|--|---|--|

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| | | <p>of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN-OAS) took place at its headquarters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25th Anniversary of Plan CAIF, a Uruguayan public policy that focuses on early childhood • 2nd Meeting of the Regional Expert Group on Indicators of the Exercise of Women's Rights • Meeting with United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Frank La Rue. • Ambassador Hugo Cayrús, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the Organization of the American States, visited the IIN • Visit from senior officials of the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion of the Republic of Ecuador | |
|--|--|---|--|

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6. Financial Report 2014

Funds for the Inter-American Children's Institute derive basically from two sources: **1) The Regular Fund** and, **2) Specific Funds**.

For 2014, funds were as follows:

| Allocated Funds 2014 | Amount in USD |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Regular Fund – Obj. 1 | 747.900 |
| Regular Fund – Obj. 2 to 9 | 282.400 |
| Regular Fund – Obj. 2 to 9 | 7.000 |
| Regular Fund | 1.037.300 |
| Specific Fund | 5.000 |
| Total Funds | 1.042.300 |

* Office of Inspector General-disposal of idle assets

1) Regular Fund

- For 2014, the General Assembly of the Permanent Council approved a budget of **1.037.300** for the regular fund.
- The budget allocated to objects 2 to 9 is U\$S 282.400 and U\$S 7.000 for disposal of idle assets
- Object 1 represents "Staff", with a total of USD 747.900,00.

| Allocated Fund USD Obj. 1 | Allocated Fund USD Obj. 2 to 9 | Approved Fund - USD |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 747.900 | 289.400 | 1.037.300 |

1) Specific Funds

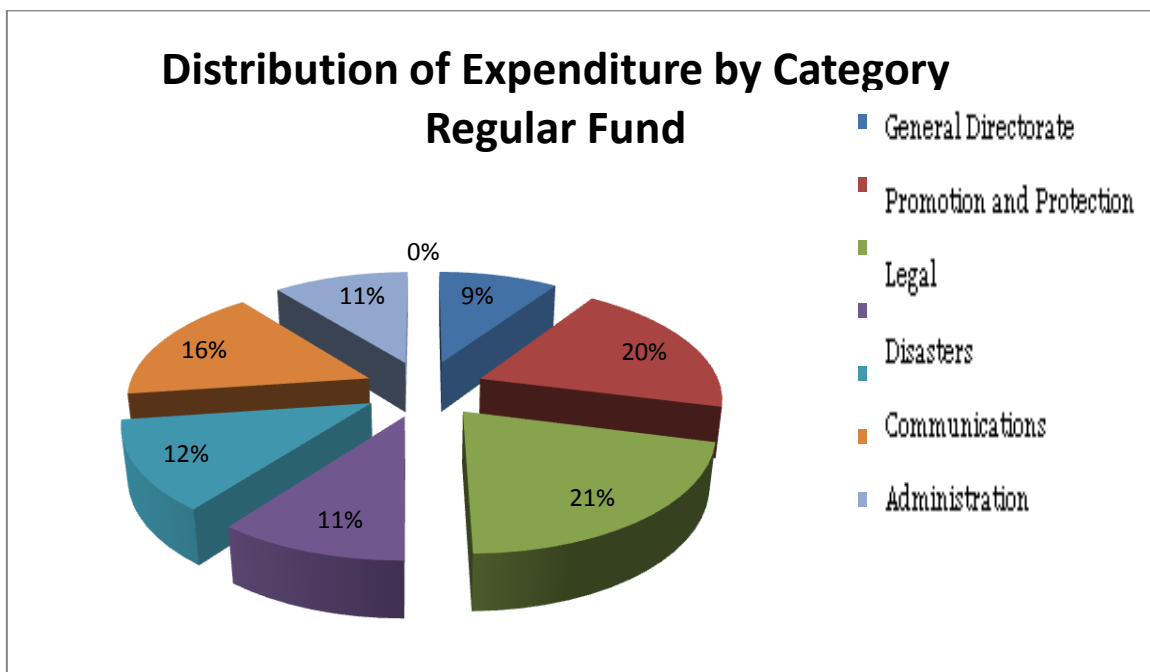
The following table shows the distribution of the amounts covered by the Specific Fund.

| Fund Period | Cooperating Agency | Amount (USD) | Fund Period |
|------------------------|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| Funds received on 2014 | Argentina Republic | Contribution from Argentina - For the issue of International Child Abduction | 5,000.00 |
| TOTAL | | | 5,000.00 |

The total amount of the Regular Fund and the Specific Fund allocated to the IIN in 2013 and used to administer objects 2 to 9, was **USD 294.400**, which was distributed as follows:

| Category | Amount – USD |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| General Directorate | 67.358 |
| Promotion and Protection | 45.778 |
| Legal | 48.427 |
| Disasters | 30.883 |
| Communications | 21.896 |
| Administration | 48.489 |
| General Directorate | 31.570 |
| Total | 294.400 |

The proportional distribution of the IIN's budget for objects 2 to 9, for both the Specific and the Regular Funds is as follows:



Source: IIN



Technical Assistance funds without transfer of financial resources to IIN, until October

| Category | Amount – USD |
|--|---------------|
| Support development XXI Pan American Child Congress. (Speakers and technical support) | 36.860 |
| Support development II Pan American Child Forum (Speakers and technical support) | 31.040 |
| Total | 67.900 |

24, 2014 (approximate)

Capital Funds

The IIN's Capital Funds (ASG-IAC/026), which have not been used during this period, amount to **USD 76.900,85**.